

August 8, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As a state senator from St. Paul, it is my responsibility to pursue opportunities for economic growth that would benefit my constituents. As we all know, these have been very difficult and trying times for many Americans. Families looking to pay their bills, provide educational opportunities for their children and pursue the American dream, need employment opportunities that offer fair pay and decent benefits.

As policy makers, we are always seeking ways to create an economic environment that is conducive to job creation. One current opportunity that would benefit residents in my community is the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA. This combination would deliver a high-speed, next generation wireless broadband infrastructure that would enable local businesses to grow and flourish and create the kinds of jobs that Minnesotans desperately need.

Businesses need broadband access to compete on a global scale. Broadband allows businesses to work faster, smarter and with more efficiency. That's why we've seen tremendous support for the AT&T-T-Mobile merger from organized labor here in Minnesota and across the country. The benefits for business growth, job creation and economic development are undeniable.

In addition, fast and reliable wireless broadband gives our city's teachers access to the latest tools and online capabilities to create inspiring lesson plans and course work that challenges and inspires students. It provides an excellent platform for more efficient healthcare delivery for our sick and elderly and effectively bridges the digital divide to provide equal technology access for all.

Recognizing that there will be a complete and thorough review of the merger, I would ask that you strongly consider the economic impact that the combined AT&T-T-Mobile company would have on our communities. The benefits would be both far-reaching and impactful for a strong, healthy and vibrant local economy.

Sincerely,

Richard Cohen  
Minnesota State Senator